



For Immediate Release

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Honolulu District Provides Expertise to Kauai County, State Ka Loko Response Efforts

By Honolulu District Public Affairs

(FORT SHAFTER, HI - NR 09-06) Honolulu District deployed a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) team to the Hawaiian Island of Kauai March 15 after the privately-owned Ka Loko reservoir dam was breached March 14 and caused massive flooding and destruction to residential areas on the north side of the island.

Emergency Operations Planner Lincoln Gayagas and Civil Engineers Ray Kong and Eric Li provided geological reconnaissance and technical engineering expertise to Kauai county, State of Hawaii and State of Hawaii Civil Defense officials for response efforts in the devastated area and around the rain-soaked island.

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2-2-2 KALOKO EXPERTISE

The dam for Ka Loko reservoir is made of earth and built in 1890 by an irrigation company. The breach allowed a rush of an estimated 300 million gallons of water to speed down-slope, resulting in devastating flood damage to local homes, a major Kauai highway and the confirmed deaths to two people.

After gathering visual and factual assessments from the devastated areas around Ka Loko reservoir, Gayagas, Li and Kong surveyed the Morita Reservoir, which is downstream from the Ka Loko reservoir. The team provided State and local officials with engineering assessment of the damage and courses of action to mitigate the risk from further flooding.

After consulting with Kauai county workers and officials about the potential threat of additional flooding from Morita reservoir, Kong suggested work crews begin opening and widening the spillway to divert water away from threatened Morita Dam. Once the spillway was opened and the flooding threat from the reservoir minimized, state officials were able to reopen the flood-damaged Kuhio Highway.

At the request of Hawaii Civil Defense, Ray Kong will remain on Kauai to serve as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Liaison Officer to Kauai Mayor Bryan Baptiste and Kauai Civil Defense, providing expertise on geotechnical/hydrological safety matters due to continued rainfall and flood warnings on Kauai.

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